WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. An optical fibre for propagating light in a preselected direction, said fibre having a light emitting region, said light emitting region comprising a plurality of reflecting surfaces of optical quality extending into said fibre and arranged such that a portion of light propagating along said fibre and impinging upon said surfaces will be reflected out of said fibre through a side wall thereof, at least one of said reflecting surfaces having a cross-sectional area less than that of said fibre.

2. An ~~optical fibre~~ illumination device according to Claim 1 wherein the spacing between successive reflecting surfaces decreases as distance along said fibre in said preselected direction increases.

3. An ~~optical fibre~~ illumination device according to Claim 2 wherein the cross-sectional areas of said reflecting surfaces increase as distance along said fibre in said preselected direction increases.

4. An ~~optical fibre~~ illumination device according to Claim 1 wherein the cross-sectional areas of said reflecting surfaces increase as distance along said fibre in said preselected direction increases.

5. An ~~optical fibre~~ illumination device according to Claim 1 wherein each of said reflecting surfaces is substantially planar.

6. An ~~optical fibre~~ illumination device according to Claim 5 wherein the spacing between successive reflecting surfaces decreases as distance along said fibre in said preselected direction increases.

7. An illumination device ~~optical fibre~~ according to Claim 6 wherein the cross-sectional areas of said reflecting surfaces increase as distance along said fibre in said preselected direction increases.

8. An illumination device ~~optical fibre~~ according to Claim 5 wherein the cross-sectional areas of said reflecting surfaces increase as distance along said fibre in said preselected direction increases.

9. An illumination device ~~optical fibre~~ according to Claim 1 wherein each of said reflecting surfaces comprises a wall of a notch in said fibre.

10. An illumination device ~~optical fibre~~ according to Claim 9 wherein the spacing between successive reflecting surfaces decreases as distance along said fibre in said preselected direction increases.

11. An illumination device ~~optical fibre~~ according to Claim 10 wherein the cross-sectional areas of said reflecting surfaces increase as distance along said fibre in said preselected direction increases.

12. An illumination device ~~optical fibre~~ according to Claim 9 wherein the cross-sectional areas of said reflecting surfaces increase as distance along said fibre in said preselected direction increases.

13. An illumination device ~~optical fibre~~ according to Claim 9 wherein each of said reflecting surfaces is substantially planar.

14. An illumination device ~~optical fibre~~ according to Claim 13 wherein the spacing between successive reflecting surfaces decreases as distance along said fibre in said preselected direction increases.

15. An ~~optical fibre~~ illumination device according to Claim 14 wherein the cross-sectional areas of said reflecting surfaces increase as distance along said fibre in said preselected direction increases.

16. An ~~optical fibre~~ illumination device according to Claim 13 wherein the cross-sectional areas of said reflecting surfaces increase as distance along said fibre in said preselected direction increases.

Add B2

Add C1